

# 1. A Rights-Based Approach to Monitoring Children and Young People's Well-Being

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## At A Glance

Ireland and Northern Ireland are societies facing issues of common concern in relation to the rights and well-being of children and young people. The purpose of this Foundation Report is to contribute to a shared understanding of a human rights-based approach to monitoring children and young people's well-being.

Key messages from this report.

1. Human rights and the well-being of children and young people are interconnected concepts and should not be considered in isolation.
2. A human-rights based monitoring programme on the well-being of children and young people can add value in the following ways: legitimacy through an internationally accepted child rights framework; greater accountability by a joint focus on duty bearers and rights holders; the voice of children and young people on their well-being and enjoyment of their rights; and universality through a focus on marginalised children and young people.
3. Adopting a rights-based approach to monitoring the well-being of children and young people should be systematic in its approach and can include the following steps:
  - i. identification of what is to be monitored;
  - ii. specification of the relevant rights;
  - iii. connection of the rights to stated government outcomes;
  - iv. identification of government actions to implement these rights;
  - v. measurement of progress to track improvements.

The Children and Youth Programme through the UNESCO chairs will work collaboratively to promote a rights-based approach to monitoring activity in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This knowledge will enhance efforts in both jurisdictions to realise the rights and promote the well-being of children and young people. The Children and Youth Programme will adopt this approach in its Special Report Series focusing on: education, mental health, youth justice and civic participation over the next few months. The Special Report Series will illustrate how a rights-based approach to monitoring can be operationalised in practice.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Education for Pluralism,  
Human Rights and Democracy



UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and  
Civic Engagement



### Children and Youth Programme

t. +44 (0)28 7012 3593

f. +44 (0)28 7012 3021

e. [comms@childrenandyouthprogramme.info](mailto:comms@childrenandyouthprogramme.info)

Twitter: @UNESCOcyp

[www.childrenandyouthprogramme.info](http://www.childrenandyouthprogramme.info)

### UNESCO Centre

School of Education  
University of Ulster  
Cromore Road  
Coleraine  
Co. Londonderry  
BT52 1SA  
Northern Ireland

[www.ulster.ac.uk/unescocentre](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/unescocentre)

### UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

School of Political Science and Sociology  
National University of Ireland  
Galway  
Ireland

[www.childandfamilyresearch.ie](http://www.childandfamilyresearch.ie)

### The Children and Youth Programme

The Children and Youth Programme is an independent collaboration between the two UNESCO Chairs in Ireland at the University of Ulster and NUI Galway.

